

BSTs, Recurrences, and Amortized Analysis 3 Solutions

Interview Question: Binary Search Trees

Write pseudo-code to perform an in-order traversal in a binary search tree without using recursion.

Solution:

This algorithm is implemented as the BST Iterator in P2. Check it out!

Recurrences and Closed Forms

For the following code snippet, find a recurrence for the worst case runtime of the function, and then find a closed form for the recurrence.

Consider the function f :

```
1 f(n) {  
2   if (n == 0) {  
3     return 1;  
4   }  
5   return 2 * f(n - 1) + 1;  
6 }
```

- Find a recurrence for $f(n)$.

Solution:

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} c_0 & \text{if } n = 0 \\ T(n-1) + c_1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- Find a closed form for $f(n)$.

Solution:

Unrolling the recurrence, we get $T(n) = \underbrace{c_1 + c_1 + \cdots + c_1}_{n \text{ times}} + c_0 = c_1 n + c_0$.

Recurrences and Closed Forms

For the following code snippet, find a recurrence for the worst case runtime of the function, and then find a closed form for the recurrence.

Consider the function g :

```
1 g(n) {
2   if (n < 3) {
3     return 1000;
4   }
5   if (g(n/3) > 5) {
6     for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {
7       System.out.println("Yay!");
8     }
9     return 5 * g(n/3);
10  }
11  else {
12    for (int i = 0; i < n * n; i++) {
13      System.out.println("Yay!");
14    }
15    return 4 * g(n/3);
16  }
17 }
```

- Find a recurrence for $g(n)$.

Solution:

Note that the `else` statement will never actually happen in practice. The solution to $g(n)$ is *always* greater than 5 (in fact, greater than 1000).

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} c_0 & \text{if } n = 1 \\ 2T(n/3) + c_1n & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- Find a closed form for $g(n)$.

Solution:

Let's take an inventory of all of the numbers we have to consider.

- Branching Factor / Number of Function Calls from each Recursive Case Function Call $b = 2$
- Reduction in Size of N for each step $r = 3$
- Work in Each Recursive Function Call $w_{recur} = c_1n$
- Work in Base Case / Final Function Calls $w_{base} = c_0$
- Height of Recursion Tree / Number of Function Calls until Base Case $h = \log_r n = \log_3 n$
- Number of Base Case Calls / Leaf Nodes of Recursive Tree $n_{base} = b^h = 2^{\log_3 n}$

Now, let's build a summation to evaluate the recursive case.

$$\sum_{i=0}^h \left(\frac{b}{r}\right)^i w_{recur} + n_{base}w_{base} = \sum_{i=0}^{\log_3(n)-1} \left(\left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^i c_1n\right) + 2^{\log_3 n} c_0$$

Let's simplify this equation. We will take advantage of a few uncommon properties. The sum of the finite geometric series $\sum_{i=0}^n x^i = \frac{1-x^{n+1}}{1-x}$, $|x| < 1$ and the nifty log property $n^{\log_b x} = x^{\log_b n}$.

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{i=0}^{\log_3(n)-1} \left(\left(\frac{2}{3} \right)^i c_1 n \right) + 2^{\log_3 n} c_0 &= c_1 n \sum_{i=0}^{\log_3(n)-1} \left(\frac{2}{3} \right)^i + 2^{\log_3 n} c_0 \\
&= c_1 n \left(\frac{1 - \left(\frac{2}{3} \right)^{\log_3(n)}}{1 - \frac{2}{3}} \right) + c_0 n^{\log_3(2)} \\
&= c_1 n \left(\frac{1 - \left(\frac{2^{\log_3(n)}}{3^{\log_3(n)}} \right)}{\frac{1}{3}} \right) + c_0 n^{\log_3(2)} \\
&= 3c_1 n \left(1 - \frac{n^{\log_3(2)}}{n} \right) + c_0 n^{\log_3(2)} \\
&= 3c_1 n - 3c_1 n^{\log_3(2)} + c_0 n^{\log_3(2)} \\
&= 3c_1 n + (c_0 - 3c_1) n^{\log_3(2)}
\end{aligned}$$

Since $n^{\log_3(2)} \leq n^{\log_3(3)} = n$ can conclude that the $3c_1 n$ term dominates the asymptotic runtime, so the function is, indeed, $O(n)$.

MULTI-pop

Consider augmenting the Stack ADT with an extra operation:

`multipop(k)`: Pops up to k elements from the Stack and returns the number of elements it popped

What is the amortized cost of a series of push's, Stack assuming push and pop are both $\mathcal{O}(1)$?

Solution:

Consider an *empty* Stack. If we run various operations (`multipop`, `pop`, and `push`) on the Stack until it is once again empty, we see the following: Note that `multipop(k)` takes ck time. If over the course of running the operations, we push n items, then each item is associated with *at most* one `multipop` or `pop`. It follows that the largest amount of time the `multipops` can take in aggregate is n . Note that the *smallest possible number of operations to amortize over* is $n + 1$ (n pushes and 1 `multipop`). So, the worst amortized cost of a series of pushes, pops, and `multipops` is $\frac{2n}{n+1} = \mathcal{O}(1)$. Where $2n$ comes from n pushes + n for the largest amount of time the `multipops` can take. The denominator comes from n pushes and 1 `multipop` (The smallest number of operations we could have that would take this long.).